

THE HEALTH OFFICER AND THE WAR.

It is said to take nine men working "over here" to keep one soldier fighting "over there." Clearly, therefore, it is wise to keep the nine workers husky and working as well as the one soldier.

Which health officer should stay at home and who should go to war? How is the nation bearing up under the war strain? What are the special war-time health menaces of the civil population, and what are we going to do about them? What headway are we making against the venereal diseases? These are the questions to be considered at the convention of United States and Canadian sanitarians at Chicago, October 14-17, to be held under the auspices of the American Public Health Association. Among the military sanitarians who will address the meetings are Surgeon-General Gorgas, Colonel Victor C. Vaughan, and Major William H. Welch of the Army Medical Corps. There will also be papers upon laboratory, industrial hygiene, vital statistics, food and drugs, sanitary engineering, sociological, and general health administration subjects. Other speakers at the general sessions will be George H. Vincent, president of the Rockefeller Foundation; Dr. Charles J. Hastings, president of the American Public Health Association; Dr. W. A. Evans, Assistant Surgeon-General Allan J. McLaughlin, U. S. P. H. S., Dr. Ernest S. Bishop, Dr. Lee K. Frankel, Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman and others.

As the health of the civil population has a direct bearing upon the winning of the war, mayors and governors are being requested to send their health officers to the conference in spite of the present high cost of government.

URGENT NEED FOR NURSES.

Surgeon-General Gorgas has called for 1,000 graduate nurses a week. Twenty-five thousand graduate nurses must be in war service by January 1—in the Army Nurse Corps, in the Navy Nurse Corps, in the U. S. Public Health Service, and in Red Cross war nursing. This involves withdrawal of many nurses from civilian practice and necessitates strict economy in the use of all who remain in their own communities. You can help get these nurses for our sick and wounded men by bringing this need to the attention of nurses. You can relieve nurses, where possible, wholly or in part from office duty. You can see to it that nurses are employed only in cases requiring skilled attendance. You can insist that nurses be released as soon as need for their professional service is ended. You can see that your patients use hospitals instead of monopolizing the entire time of a single nurse. You can encourage people to employ public health nurses. You can instruct women in the care of the sick. You can induce high school and college graduates to enter the Army School of Nursing or some other recognized training school for nurses. Encouraging nurses to go to the front involves real personal sacrifice and added work on the part of the physicians whose duty it is to maintain the health of our civilian second line defense. But the men who are fighting for their country in France need the nurses.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

Secretary McAdoo has received the following cablegram from General Pershing:

"All ranks of the American Expeditionary Forces appreciate deeply the generous measure the Government has taken to provide insurance for their families, in proof of which more than 90 per cent. of men have taken out insurance. To wisely provision for their loved ones heartens our men and strengthens the bonds that unite the Army and people in our strong determination to triumph in our most righteous cause."

The Bureau of War-Risk Insurance up to June 28 has written \$21,566,000,000 insurance, representing 2,570,455 applications. The average amount of insurance applied for is \$8,387, and in some battalions and regiments, some in France and some here, every man has taken out insurance. In some units every man is insured for the maximum \$10,000.

The *American Review of Tuberculosis* for July comments editorially on the safety first philosophy for the tuberculous. The man with arrested tuberculosis has to face, besides the popular stigma, the alternative of a life of idleness, in itself fraught with dangers of mental and physical deterioration, or venture along a risky path watching for symptoms of relapse, often too serious when once begun. There is only the middle ground for such a man which he must find for himself and be vigilant and well controlled. No test exists as yet to indicate the degree of healing of a tuberculous lesion. Many cases are discovered in persons in apparent good health and it would seem reasonable to consider that they have already demonstrated their physical fitness to continue their occupations. Such cases should receive an education and be allowed to continue in their usual vocations unless these are frankly hazardous. Intelligent caution is sufficient and until the attitude of the public is more reasonable and less hostile to the tuberculous, such instruction ought to be as free from publicity as possible. Much distress of mind may thus be prevented and the knowledge of, or the accidental discovery of, the disease will lose some of its dread significance to the hitherto unsuspecting individual.

NOTICE.

The Pulp and Paper section of the War Industries Board find it necessary to use every effort to conserve the paper supply and to reduce the consumption as much as possible. One of the requirements is that all publishers discontinue all free and exchange copies of their publications. The CALIFORNIA STATE JOURNAL OF MEDICINE is co-operating with the Board and is complying with this request, and we feel sure that this situation will be appreciated. If any of our readers to whom we have heretofore been sending free or exchange copies desire to receive our publication we will be pleased to place their names on our mailing list if they will send us \$1.00 in advance, the price of subscription.